

service. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Neighborhood Watch Program of Fairfax County, Virginia.

In the 25 years since its inception, the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch Program has achieved great success, with over 900 community programs established since its inception. As former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I can personally attest to the program's accomplishment.

The Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch boasts countless volunteers who have selflessly committed themselves to informing local police of suspicious activities. While it is financially and logistically impossible to place a police officer on every street corner, the neighborhood watch has provided Fairfax County with an effective alternative. Neighborhood watch volunteers have become the eyes and ears of local police, deterring crime and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Those who take the time to cast a watchful eye on their surroundings ensure a safer, friendlier place to live. Through committed neighborhood watches, these participants have proven that community involvement can make a difference.

Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch participants have bridged culture and language gaps in the name of collective security. By recognizing shared community values, Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch has facilitated improved understanding and relations between individuals from a variety of backgrounds. One of the greatest assets of neighborhood watch is its ability to bring neighbors together.

One of the most active branches of the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch is the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program, which is the oldest continuously active neighborhood watch in the United States. This highly accomplished program serves as an impressive model for other organizations across the county and nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch Program for 25 years of dedicated service to its community. Programs like neighborhood watch are vital in our efforts to combat crime. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch's past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4850, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4850, the District of Columbia

Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005, which continues to open the door of educational opportunity for the students in our nation's capital. This measure fully funds the DC School Choice Incentive Act which is fundamentally about providing new options and new hope for students and families trapped in a school system that is struggling to survive.

Since the DC School Choice Incentive Program was enacted in January 2004, the Department of Education conducted a grant competition for the administration of the program and has awarded the Washington Scholarship Fund (WSF) the opportunity to run the groundbreaking new endeavor.

And WSF is off to a strong start. More than 2,680 students applied for scholarships for the 2004–2005 school year, and over 1,840 of those students met the eligibility requirements and completed their applications. In the middle of June, a lottery was held and scholarships were awarded to 1,360 students. Of the eligible public school students, only 194 public school students did not receive scholarships because of the limitation on available space in grades 6–12.

Currently there are 53 District of Columbia private, religious and independent schools participating in the program in the 2004–2005 school year. I am pleased that many of the scholarship students have chosen to attend schools in the Center City Consortium—a group of 13 inner city DC Catholic elementary schools within the Archdiocese of Washington located in the most financially challenged neighborhoods in the District. These schools work to ensure that Catholic education continues to be available to all city families, and have enthusiastically begun to educate over 500 scholarship students.

The WSF is continuing its efforts aggressively to make sure families are aware of the scholarships available for the coming school year. With more time to prepare for this fall, the program expects more schools to participate in 2005–2006, more seats to be available, and more parents to apply.

The strength of this program is that it will not only benefit individual students and their families, but the entire education system in the District of Columbia. Everyone agrees that the public school system will remain the primary source of education for a majority of these students. We cannot, and will not, support a proposal that would harm these schools.

My colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, has provided tremendous leadership in ensuring that the bill before us continues to provide new money and new options that offers the neediest students opportunities they never had before, and more importantly, provides both increased competition and an infusion of funding that will help revitalize an entire system and help it to better serve each and every student.

The bill continues to appropriate substantial new funding—and let's be clear, this is still new money; we're not draining a single dollar from the public school system in the District. The funding is the full appropriation for the DC school improvement program—giving \$13 million for public school improvements, \$13 million for charter schools and \$14 million for opportunity scholarships to promote academic achievement and school choice.

This measure allows us the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students and families in the District of Columbia. I'm proud

of the measure before us and grateful for the work of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN in ensuring the full appropriation. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of students and families and the entire educational system in the District of Columbia.

PRAISING A. JAY CRISTOL'S BOOK "THE LIBERTY INCIDENT"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge A. Jay Cristol of the Southern District of Florida on the completion of his invaluable research on the USS *Liberty* incident. Judge Cristol's doctoral dissertation details the tragedy that befell the U.S. Navy ship USS *Liberty* in 1967 when Israeli aircraft fired upon the ship, killing 34 sailors and wounding 171 others.

Judge Cristol's dogmatic search persuaded the National Security Agency to release classified transcripts proving that Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty* was an accident. Judge Cristol's research shows the Israeli forces attacked the American USS *Liberty* ship because they believed it was an Egyptian ship firing upon their coastline.

Through his diligent work and dedication, Judge A. Jay Cristol has assisted in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel and resolving unanswered questions about this unfortunate tragedy. I applaud his efforts, and commend him for this important work.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding Florida's Judge A. Jay Cristol on this important achievement.

HOUSE CALLS

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the poetic talents of one of my constituents—Mrs. Bertie Battle Wilde of Canton, North Carolina. Mrs. Wilde has lived 96 years with deep and tremendous faith. Her belief certainly is evident in her art and I am pleased to share one of her poems, titled House Calls, with my colleagues.

HOUSE CALLS

Jesus makes house calls 24 hours each day
All you have to do is bow your head and pray.

Remember, we are not promised tomorrow,
only today.

He's standing at your heart's door knocking,
Will you let Him in?

He will dissolve your troubles,
And take away your sins.

If you have problems, give Jesus a call.
The number is H-E-A-V-E-N.

He'll show you what to do,
Because He loves you.

He'll talk to you anytime,
Because He's always on the line,
And it won't cost you a dime.

He don't want your money,
But His love to you He will impart.